



FORD HOUSE

EDSEL & ELEANOR

FORD HOUSE FACT SHEET

Background: Ford House was the private residence of Henry and Clara Ford's only child, Edsel, his wife Eleanor, and their four children: Henry II, Benson, Josephine and William Clay.

The home is preserved and open to the public through the generosity of Eleanor Clay Ford, who wanted the estate to be left to the community upon her passing in 1976. It remains as a witness to the past, a part of the history of the area and an enrichment in the lives of future generations.

The Fords built their home as a place where they could integrate their family's activities and interests with global business responsibilities and concern for the local community. The home, its contents, and grounds, along with the legacy left by the Fords, all reflect the important role played by the family in Detroit, Michigan, and the nation.

Since opening to the public in 1978, hundreds of thousands of guests have visited Ford House to marvel at the home and collection of antiques and art; to stroll the estate's 87 acres of beautiful, lakefront grounds; and to attend special events, classes and lectures.

Location: 1100 Lake Shore Road
in Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan
on Gaukler Pointe, the western shoreline of Lake St. Clair

Architects: House and Buildings: Albert Kahn
Landscape: Jens Jensen

Architectural Style: **Tudor Revival**, inspired by the Cotswold region of Gloucestershire, England

Built: Exterior 1926-1927
Interior 1927-1929
The Fords moved in September 1928.

Property Size: Currently, 87 acres
Originally, more than 125 acres. Forty-three acres were deeded by Eleanor Clay Ford to the city of Grosse Pointe Woods in 1946 to build a municipal park.

Main House Size: 30,000 square feet; 60 rooms

Rooms Include: Entrance Hall, Drawing Room, Dining Room, Morning Room, Edsel Ford's Study, Modern Room, Gallery, Library, Flower Room, Recreation Room, Kitchen, Pantry, family bedrooms and bathrooms, guest rooms, sitting room

Auxiliary Buildings: Gate Lodge -- The site of two formerly residential cottages, an apartment, and the 8-car garage, it also served as the temporary Visitor Center during Ford House Forward construction.

Recreation Building -- Contains a living room, kitchen, changing rooms and an indoor squash court with a spectator's gallery.

Power House -- The cottage-like appearance of the Power House masks its utilitarian purpose of providing power and heat to the estate.

Playhouse -- A 2/3 scale house in a Tudor Revival style, a gift to 7-year-old Josephine from her grandmother Clara Ford in 1930.

Visitor Center & Administration Building: Expansion project opened in May 2021

Art and Furnishings: Antique paneling, entrance hall staircase, and other architectural elements from England; art, furniture, and decorative arts in many forms from around the world.

Grounds Features: Meadow, Maple Lane, Flower Lane, Swimming Pool, Lagoon, Rose Garden, New Garden, Bird Island natural habitat

Ford Family: Edsel Bryant Ford, the only child of Henry and Clara Bryant Ford, was born on November 6, 1893. He became President of Ford Motor Company in 1919 at the age of 25. He died in 1943. He was instrumental in bringing a design sensibility to Ford. Eleanor Clay Ford was born in 1896, the daughter of William and Eliza Hudson Clay and niece of J.L. Hudson of Hudson's Department Store. She died in 1976. Edsel Ford and Eleanor Clay were married in 1916 and had four children.

The Fords were generous philanthropists and avid art collectors. Notable among their many contributions to local and national causes, Edsel commissioned the Diego Rivera *Detroit Industry* murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts and founded the Ford Foundation in 1936.

Tours and Activities: Ford House offers tours, special exhibitions, community programs, and educational events throughout the year, including concerts, the annual EyesOn Design car show, workshops, lectures, fitness and art classes, and more. A full schedule is available at www.fordhouse.org.

Ford House is open Tuesdays-Sundays throughout the year. Please see our website for the most up to date hours of operation.

More Information: For further information, reservations, schedules and more, visit www.fordhouse.org or call 313-884-4222. Follow Ford House on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for all the latest updates.

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